



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 27 2011

Dear Ms. Ros-Lehtinen:

Thank you for your letter of July 8 regarding reported attempts by Iran to engage Argentina on nuclear issues using Venezuela as an interlocutor.

We acknowledge your concerns regarding Iran's interest in promoting itself in Latin America, and its growing engagement in the region. We continue to monitor these relationships closely. As Secretary Clinton remarked, "I think if people want to flirt with Iran, they should take a look at what the consequences might well be for them... We hope that there will be a recognition that [Iran] is the major supporter, promoter, and exporter of terrorism in the world today."

Given our level of concern on this matter, we have been and will continue to be particularly vigilant about any Iranian activities which would violate U.S. law or UN sanctions, or otherwise represent a threat to U.S. security. We have no reason to believe that Venezuela serves as an interlocutor between Iran and Argentina on nuclear issues, nor that Argentina is granting Iran access to its nuclear technology. It is noteworthy that Argentina has long maintained a constructive position at the International Atomic Energy Agency with respect to Iran's nuclear program. Argentina and Iran do have a commercial relationship, based mostly on agricultural trade, which they acknowledge openly. Diplomatic and political relations remain limited.

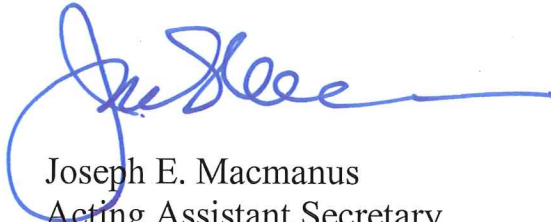
We expect all countries to abide by their international obligations and responsibilities, including the obligation to fully implement all UN Security Council resolutions and sanctions on Iran. We have urged the Iranian government to act responsibly in the region, fully supporting Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner's insistence that Iran cooperate in

The Honorable
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen,
House of Representatives.

bringing the perpetrators of the 1994 bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association in Buenos Aires to justice.

We hope this information is useful. Please feel free to contact us further on this or any matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Macmanus", with a large circular flourish on the left side.

Joseph E. Macmanus
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs